

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 COME-00 SS-15 NSC-10

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R 011235Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 817

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DEPARTMENT PASS DOT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ETRD ETRN TECH US UR

SUBJ: US-SOVIET COOPERATION IN ROADBUILDING

REF: MOSCOW 7971

1. SUMMARY: AS REPORTED REFTEL, FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER MAZUROV MENTIONED TO CHARGE AT JULY 4 RECEPTION THE POSSIBILITY OF US PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING SOVIET NETWORK OF HIGHWAYS. HE IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN SUCH COOPERATION, WHICH WE BELIEVE MIGHT APPROPRIATELY FALL UNDER THE NEW US-SOVIET TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT. COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR US EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS MAY BE USEFUL BY-PRODUCT OF ROADBUILDING COOPERATION. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) CONSIDER INVITATION TO MAZUROV TO VISIT US WITH PRIMARY FOCUS ON HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION; (B) CONSIDER EARLY MEETING OF EXPERTS UNDER TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT TO LAUNCH EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD. END SUMMARY.

2. WE ARE AWARE THAT BOTH US AND USSR ARE JUST NOW IN PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING JOINT COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION IN FIELD OF TRANSPORTATION AS FIRST STEP IN GEARING UP  
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TO IMPLEMENT THAT AGREEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MAZUROV

HAS THE CHIEF VOICE IN THE POLITBURO ON TRANSPORTATION MATTERS, WHICH HE SUPERVISES IN HIS GOVERNMENT ROLE AS FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER. WE WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO HIS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION WITH THE US, IF POSSIBLE ON A HIGHER PRIORITY BASIS THAN MAY BE THE CASE WITH THOSE AREAS OF COOPERATION SPECIFICALLY OUTLINED IN THE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT.

3. ONE WAY WE MIGHT APPROACH THIS IS TO PROPOSE DIRECTLY TO MAZUROV THAT HE VISIT THE UNITED STATES TO SURVEY POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION IN HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION. WE BELIEVE HE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO AN INVITATION, WHICH COULD BE EXTENDED EITHER UNDER THE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT OR AS A LEADER GRANT. HE IS A GRADUATE OF A HIGHWAY ENGINEERING INSTITUTE AND APPARENTLY MAINTAINS A STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS FIELD. HE PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE US WITH KHRUSHCHEV, BUT WE UNDERSTAND HE SAW ONLY NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. OFTEN IDENTIFIED AS THE LOGICAL SUCCESSOR TO KOSYGIN, HE IS A MAN WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE INVOLVED IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS.

4. DURING THE MAZUROV VISIT (OR EARLIER), WE WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE THAT US AND SOVIET EXPERTS MEET PURSUANT TO THE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT. THESE EXPERTS, WHO WOULD BE THE NUCLEUS OF A WORKING GROUP TO BE DESIGNATED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE, COULD DEFINE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, WHICH MIGHT FALL IN THE CATEGORY OF "OTHER FIELDS OF COOPERATION" PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 2 OF THE AGREEMENT. ALTERNATIVELY, A HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION GROUP COULD BE FORMED AS A MEETING OF SPECIALISTS "ENCOURAGED AND FACILITATED" BY BOTH SIDES UNDER TERMS OF ARTICLE 4.

&/ AN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR GETTING AN EARLIER START IN THE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION FIELD IS THE POTENTIALLY

IMPORTANT MARKET IN THE SOVIET UNION FOR ROADBUILDING EQUIPMENT, OVER AND ABOVE THE EARTHMOVING MACHINERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SALES ALREADY CONCLUDED.  
DUBS

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